

PUBLIC HEARING FOR TENTATIVE BUDGET
APRIL 7, 2011

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Cold Spring held a public hearing on Tuesday, April 7, 2011 at 7:00 pm at Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY to hear comment on the tentative budget for the fiscal year 2011/2012.

Attending: Mayor Seth Gallagher
Trustees Charles Hustis, Bruce Campbell, J. Ralph Falloon
and Airinhos Serradas
Also: Ellen Mageean, Village Accountant
Members of the Public as per attached sheet
Ann Chestnut from the PCN&R and Liz Armstrong from Philipstown.info

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Mayor Gallagher called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Gallagher read the public hearing notice and the **attached** budget message. The hearing was then opened to the public.

Michael Armstrong asked for the dollar amount of the state aid portion of the transportation project that was described in the budget message as expected but not allocated. Mayor Gallagher discussed the transportation project funding.

Liz Armstrong asked about impact on the federal transportation project if the federal government was shut down.

Stephanie Hawkins commented that she was happy that recycling is making money. Mayor Gallagher added that the next project for the village will be focusing on composting. Michael Armstrong spoke about a county project to provide incentives to reduce the amount of waste.

Mayor Gallagher then began a page by page review of the highlights of the general, water and sewer budgets. Thomas Ambrose asked if the amount of the unreserved water fund balance was acceptable. Mayor Gallagher spoke of the upcoming projects planned in the water and sewer departments.

Kathleen Foley inquired about the specifics of the State Aid Urban Forestry budget line. This grant project involves a tree inventory and tree replacement.

Michael Armstrong asked about the general approach to debt acquisition and the target or maximum level.

Ann Chestnut of the Putnam County News and Recorder asked what items were included in Mayor contractual line.

Kathleen Foley asked if all employees received dental and eyeglass benefits. Mayor Gallagher commented that only full time employees are eligible.

Mayor Gallagher asked Ms. Mageean about the employees and police retirement amounts. Ms. Mageean discussed the factors New York State uses in determining the village contribution.

Thomas Ambrose asked what expenses were related to the shared contractual line. Also, he wanted to know why the clearing account for diesel fuel was a negative number. Ms. Mageean offered that this is a timing issue.

An unidentified resident asked if the amount allocated for snow removal was adequate. Mayor Gallagher explained that all highway personal service lines must be considered as a whole. During the year, transfers can be made between highway personal service lines depending upon workloads.

Ann Chestnut asked if the percentage rate for retirement was the total for all eligible.

Trustee Serradas inquired about the GASB 45 amount. Ms. Mageean commented that the GASB 45 is not recorded on the financial statements.

Thomas Ambrose asked why the Recreation gasoline budget line was no longer in the budget. Mayor Gallagher explained that it was absorbed into the highway gasoline line.

Trustee Serradas commented that he would like the Attorney lines to be reduced to \$45,000. In response, Mayor Gallagher voiced his opposition, adding that the village needs representation and would be forced to spend funds even if money was not in the budget.

Trustee Serradas objected to the \$23,000 Street Maintenance resurfacing amount. He would like to see monies targeted for sidewalk repairs throughout the village rather than resurface three streets or to eliminate this budget amount altogether.

In other matters, Trustee Serradas objected to putting funds into repair of outdated vehicles and recommended putting funds toward purchase of new vehicles. In response, Mayor Gallagher discussed the amount spent on repairs this year (\$2,500). Also, he added that the highway foreman believes these repairs were a good investment.

Trustee Serradas questioned whether \$38,000 allocated for general street lighting was excessive.

Thomas Ambrose asked if the Village could petition Central Hudson to upgrade to energy efficient street lights.

Trustee Serradas called for upgrades to the computer equipment for the Clerk and Accountant.

Catharine Square asked about the budget line for Trustee Newsletter and why no funds were spent this year. Mayor Gallagher stated that the newsletter was not issued this year.

Kathleen Foley called for more composting activity and the possibility of obtaining revenue from sale of compost.

With no further public comment, Trustee Hustis moved to close the public hearing and seconded by Trustee Serradas and unanimously approved.

After the public hearing, the monthly financial report was given by the Village Accountant as she will not be present for the monthly meeting.

Bank balances were reviewed. Highlights of the financial report for the period ending 3/31/2011 were mentioned including revenues from unpaid taxes received from Putnam County and payment from the Town of Philipstown for fire protection. Mayor Gallagher announced that an agreement had been reached with the police contract and the board will vote on this contract on May 3, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Saari, Village Clerk